

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, BG
SUBJECT: IV GRANTEE K. M. OBAIDUR RAHMAN

REF: DACCA 1366

1. DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THAT IMPASSE WITH OBAID PUTS YOU IN MOST UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION. LACK OF PERSONAL INVITATION FROM COUNTERPART EMBARRASSES OBAID AS WELL, PARTICULARLY NOW THAT ISSUE HAS BECOME MATTER OF CONTENTION BETWEEN US. NONETHELESS, WE HAVE SIMPLY BEEN UNABLE TO SECURE PERSONAL INVITATION FROM EITHER INTERIOR OR THE FEO. BOTH AGENCIES PROMISE COOPERATION IN SCHEDULING APPROPRIATE PROFESSIONAL BRIEFINGS, BUT NEITHER WISHES TO COMMIT PRINCIPAL AT ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL TO MEETING WITHOUT REAL SUBSTANCE.

2. FOR OUR PART, DEPARTMENT IS MOST RELUCTANT TO EXTEND INVITATION WITHOUT ASSURANCE THAT NAME WE ARE TAKING IN VAIN WILL ALSO APPEAR ON OBAID'S WASHINGTON SCHEDULE. WE FEAR THIS WOULD ONLY TRANSFER FROM DACCA TO WASHINGTON INEVITABLE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN OBAID'S CONCEPTION OF THE IV PROGRAM AND THE REALITY. INITIAL DISAPPOINTMENT WITH LEVEL OF RECEPTION HERE AND POSSIBLE FEELING THAT

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HE HAD BEEN DECEIVED COULD PUT CLOUD OVER ENTIRE VISIT.

3. FRANKLY DEPARTMENT ALSO CONCERNED WITH THIS EXERCISE WE ARE ENCOURAGING CONTINUATION OF BENGALIEE MISAPPREHENSIONS, AND STIMULATING ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR THIS SORT OF SPECIAL TREATMENT. IV PROGRAM SUCCESSFUL ONLY WHEN IT DOES WHAT IT IS DESIGNED TO DO: PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR FOREIGN VISITORS IN PRIVATE CAPACITY TO GET LONG, LEISURELY LOOK AT ASPECTS OF THIS COUNTRY WHICH PARTICULARLY INTEREST THEM. POMP AND PROTOCOL ONLY INTERFERE WITH THIS OBJECTIVE.

4. ACCORDINGLY, WE URGE YOU TO HAVE ANOTHER GO AT CONVINCING OBAID THAT HE SHOULD BACK DOWN. WE VERY MUCH WANT HIM TO COME. WE INTEND TO PROGRAM HIM AS HEAVILY AS HE DESIRES IN AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL AND POLITICAL INTEREST TO HIM. (FYI, ON POLITICAL SIDE BANGLADESH EMBASSY WILL HELP, FOR THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN INFORMED FROM DACCA OF OBAID'S ARRIVAL. HE WILL, HOWEVER, PROBABLY NOT BE RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT AT LEVEL OF DEPUTY SECRETARY OR SECRETARY. END FYI.) HE SHOULD RECOGNIZE AND WELCOME FACT THAT USG HAS NO IMMEDIATE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES TO BE SERVED BY VISIT. WE HOPE BDG WILL NOT INSIST ON INJECTING POLITICAL CONDITIONS, FOR USG HAS NO PROGRAM SHORT OF OFFICIAL VISIT FOR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OR STATE WHICH CAN CARRY HEAVY POLITICAL FREIGHT. PROGRAM IS DESIGNED FOR BENEFIT OF OBAIDUR RAHMAN AND WE TRUST, SHOULD HE DECIDE TO COME, HE WILL BE SATISFIED WITH HOSPITALITY OF AMERICAN PEOPLE WHICH AWAITS HIM. KISSINGER

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